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A TRUE RELATION

OF A LATE

BARBAROUS ASSAULT

Committed upon

Robert Pye Esq;

One of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of *HEREFORD.*

Who Died thereof 30 *JAN.* 1680.

BY

John Bodnam Esq;

A Notorious Papist:

Whom he went about to apprehend, for Refusing to Obey the ORDERS of the

QUARTER SESSIONS;

Whereby he was Summoned to take the

OATHS of *ALLEGEANCE, &c.*

As it was Certified, *&c.*

LONDON:
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A True RELATION Of a Late Barbarous ASSAULT

Committed upon

ROBERT PYE Esq;

WHether it be Folly or Madneſs for the Papiſts to give ſuch bloody Experiments of their Cruelty, is a thing which one would think might be eaſily determin'd among Chriſtians. And yet they have their witty as well as their crafty Defenders of all their Villanies. Certainly at length Men will take the Meaſure of *Hercules* by his Foot, and gueſs at their Sanguine Deſigns of General Maſſacres, by their Violent Outrages upon particular perſons. One would think that it were an Article of the Roman Catholick Faith to murther Proteſtant Juſtices of the Peace. Ever ſince the Diſcovery of the Plot, they have been committing ſome Villany or other. They began with Sir *Edmond-bury Godfrey*; the next Object of their revenge was Mr. *Arnold*, and now we are to give you the Relation of another Exploit no leſs wicked then either; God, as we have great Reaſon to believe, ſtill hardning their hearts, to open the eyes of thoſe that blindly defend their Cauſe, and labour to extenuate their Crimes.

Since the Diſcovery of the late Plot, it is well known what care has been taken to give orders to ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace in their ſeveral Stations to watch the Deſigns and Proceedings of the Papiſts, and to take care of the Publick Tranquillity in their ſeveral Counties. In Purſuance of which Orders ſeveral Warrants were granted at the Quarter-Seſſions for the County of *Hereford* againſt one *John Bodnam* of *Brunguin* in the ſaid County Eſq. as being known to be an obſtinate and violent Papiſt, and one that ſtill refuſed to take the Oaths which the Law required, or to Obey any Warrant either of any ſingle Juſtice of the Peace, or joyntly Sign'd at the Seſſions, but keeping cloſe in his Houſe as his Garriſon, defended himſelf againſt the Conſtables, and their Aſſiſtants, ſome of whom he hath ſhot and wounded. This Mr. *Bodnam* living near to a Place called the *Meene*, the Manſion-Houſe of *Robert Pye* Eſq. one of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the ſame County; an Eminent and Worthy Proteſtant, and a Gentleman of great Honour and Value in his Country, and now to be lamented with an equal ſorrow to that which bewaild the fall of Sir *Edmond-bury Godfrey*, ſo like to his; the ſaid Mr. *Pye*, could not but think it a Scandal to the Government, and a great neglect of his Duty, in regard of his Office, that ſo notorious a Papiſt ſhould live as it were under his Noſe, ſo openly refractory, and in a rebellious defiance of the Law. For which reaſon he gave out a Warrant for his Apprehenſion, which the Conſtable being afraid to Execute alone, he therefore ſent ſome of his own ſervants to Aid and Aſſiſt him. But Mr. *Bodnam*, keeping his doors faſt, defended himſelf ſo well, or rather ſo ill, that the Conſtable and his Aſſiſtance were forced to retire and leave him, for the ſafety of their lives, then which a *Tore*, or an *Out-law* could have done no more.

Some-

Sometime after this, that is to say, on the 12*th* of *January* last, it was Mr. *Pyes* misfortune to spye his unruly Neighbour *Bodnam*, walking in his own grounds; whereupon, having at the same time an Order of Sessions for the said Mr. *Bodnam's* Apprehension about him, and bethinking with himself, that his Oath and the Duty of his Place, in Honour obligʼd him to apprehend an Offender who had so often offended; he went to him, and commanded him to surrender himself as a Prisoner to the Law. Mr. *Bodnam*, having a Hedg-Bill in his hand, replied according to the usual Language of his Popish Litany, (Dam me) *Stand off, or Iʼll cleave you down.* The Justice made answer, Mr. *Bodnam, You know I am too much a Man to fear you.* For it seems he had formerly hand to hand taken him Prisoner, and let him go upon his parole, which he afterwards perfidiously and dishonourably broke; and for his justification sent him word, That no Faith was to be kept with Hereticks. Mr. *Pye*, having therefore given him to understand, as before, that he did not fear him, told him further in these words, *I came not now as a single person to fight you, but as a Magistrate, according to Law, to apprehend you; and therefore I require you to surrender your self peaceably*: Which Mr. *Bodnam* refusing to do, Mr. *Pye* bravely and vigorously pressʼd in upon him, which this same Papistical Butcher perceiving, steppʼd back, and in good earnest let fly at his head with his Hedg-Bill (no bad Argument for the truth of the Black Bills prepared for the Papists in *Ireland*) and having stunnʼd the valiant Magistrate with the first, with the second blow fellʼd him to the ground; presently company coming in prevented the immediate Murther of the Gentleman and seized upon the Criminal *Bodnam*. The Wounded Mr. *Pye* recovered his Senses sometime after, but it was only to increase his Pain: For after he had continued ill about Eighteen days in a lingring condition, upon the 30*th* of *January* last he departed this life, the Sacrifice of Papistical Disobedience and Rebellion, not only to the unspeakable Grief of his Family and Relations, but of all who had the Honour to be acquainted with him. Nor is he less lamented by all the true Protestants as well in the same, as in the Adjacent Counties. Tis true the Murtherer will be doubtless hangʼd; but here is the severity of the Exchange, We have lost an Industrious and Valiant Magistrate; the Papists only a loose base Butcherly Villain.

This is now the Second Prank that has been playʼd in *Herefordshire*, or by men of that County, the worst of Contagions, should it from thence spread any farther. Here are fair warnings and fair discoveries of the very bottoms of the Papists hearts, but they cost too dear. Here is a petty Kingdom, that is to say, a whole Family, put into a fatal Confusion at two blows, to shew their Designs were real against the Great Master of the Universal Family of the Nation. And these are the barbarous Effects of Popish Zeal, from which Good Lord deliver us.

Now 'tis a hundred to one, but that as soon as this same Caitiff shall be hangʼd, the Papists will deny that ever there were any such Persons as Mr. *Pye* or *Bodnam*, and perhaps that there is any such County of *Hereford*. But such Blots in their Scutcheons as these, will not be so easily wiped away. But they will find the English Inquisition after Blood, to be as resolute as their own Spanish Inquisition after Heresy; and therefore his *Holyness* would do well to admonish his Creatures to proceed with less passion, and to be more Submissive to the Commands and Orders of their Temporal Princes.

F I N I S.

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